Mr. H.R. Hanson 103.10

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January 21, 1965.

Mr. Ted Yates,
Secretary-Manager, The Ontario
Federation of Anglers & Hunters, Inc.,
Box 309,
Willowdale, Ontario.

Dear Mr. Yates:

On behalf of the Chairman, Mr. Smith, I would like to thank you and The Ontario Federation of Anglers & Hunters, Inc., for the resolution which you have sent to us via Mr. Butler of the Department of Municipal Affairs. I will be happy to bring this to the Committee's attention at their next meeting, and I am sure they will give careful consideration to your recommendations.

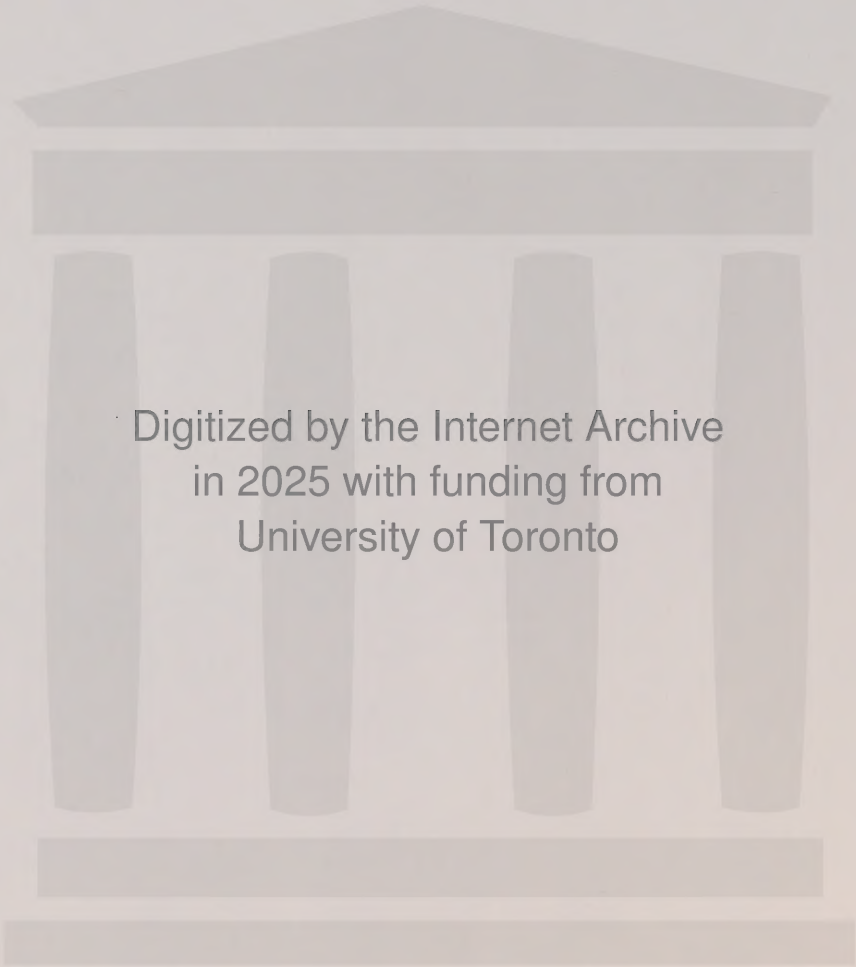
I shall treat this resolution as a formal submission to the Committee and it would be a great convenience for me if you could provide an additional eleven copies in order that our files and distribution of this submission may correspond to the treatment given to the others which we have received.

Yours very truly,

H.R. Hanson,
Secretary.

HRH:ws

cc: Mr. A.T. Butler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GENERAL RESOLUTION

Resolution Number 65-6-G4

SUBJECT: TAX ASSESSMENT REVISIONS

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WHEREAS: when Ontario was covered by forests the water cycle was such that springs and small streams with year round flow were abundant across the land, and

WHEREAS: due to denudation of forests the majority of these springs and small streams have gone dry, or flow only during apportion of the year and our water tables have receded to the danger point while floods are rampant during freshets and spring runoff, and

WHEREAS: it is conceded by all authorities on this continent and demonstrated in Europe on the rivers Rhine, Rhone and Danube, that forested land has a very marked influence in retarding rapid runoff, floods and incident erosion of the soil, and

WHEREAS: the present system of taxation of forested and reforested land offers no inducement to the planting of trees or the holding of land under forest by private land owners, and

WHEREAS: it requires 40 to 100 years for trees to grow to marketable size and quite often the owner will receive no revenue therefrom during his tenure of the property, and

WHEREAS: substantial acreage blocks of forested land more or less regularly dispersed throughout the whole area offers, in addition to water control, many benefits in the form of recreation, wildlife and revenue from wood products, and

WHEREAS: the Assessment Act was designed solely for the purpose of raising funds and without thought or planning for the needs of conservation with respect to water and other benefits.

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT: the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters request the Ontario Committee on Taxation and/or other responsible parties, to make tax assessment revisions as follows:

(a) that Municipalities levey a Yield Tax on forested acreage, instead of a property tax (as at present), to be collected from the land owner at the time of harvesting of wood products;

(b) under Sec. 4:18 that the present legislation under the Assessment Act be amended to allow land owners exemption from property taxes for the total acreage of woodland on their property provided they maintain an adequate stand of trees and protect them from grazing by livestock.